

Charley

■ **Landfall:** Friday, Aug. 13, 2004, 3:45 p.m., near Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte in southwest Florida as a Category 4.
■ **Impact:** The fast-moving hurricane plowed through the I-4 corridor into Central Florida, where it downed trees and power lines, damaged roofs and caused extended outages. Winds were still at more than 90 mph and gusts of 105 mph were recorded at Orlando International Airport when Charley hit Orlando about 9 p.m. It was the strongest Florida hurricane since Andrew in 1992.



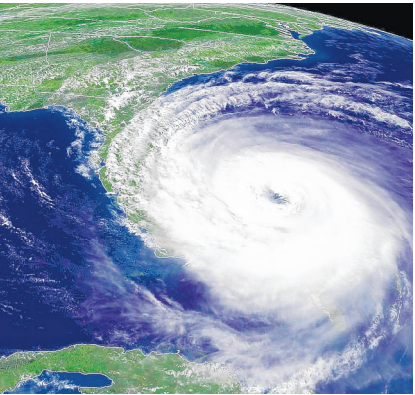
Frances

■ **Landfall:** Sunday, Sept. 5, 2004, 1 a.m., near Sewall's Point east of Stuart in southeast Florida as a Category 2.
■ **Impact:** Unlike Charley, Frances took a while to make it through Florida and clobbered the state with hours of winds and rain, causing widespread flooding across the region. The storm also damaged the Vehicle Assembly Building at the Kennedy Space Center in Brevard County. Residents still trying to clean up from Charley saw yet another storm ruin Labor Day weekend.



Ivan

■ **Landfall:** Thursday, Sept. 16, 2004, 2:50 a.m., near Gulf Shores, Ala., at the Alabama-Florida border as a Category 3. After moving through the southeast U.S. and weakening, Ivan's remnant low looped around and crossed southeast Florida. It came ashore for the final time in Louisiana.
■ **Impact:** Ivan was the only hurricane among the four that did not directly impact Central Florida. The storm devastated parts of Alabama and the Panhandle near Pensacola with 130-mph winds and heavy storm surge.



Jeanne

■ **Landfall:** Saturday, Sept. 25, 2004, 11:50 p.m., on Hutchinson Island near Sewall's Point in southeast Florida as a Category 3. Landfall mirrored where Frances arrived 20 days earlier.
■ **Impact:** It could have been even worse for Central Florida if Jeanne's path hadn't gone further west than expected before turning north. Still, the storm contributed plenty to the misery. Jeanne caused more damage to NASA's Vehicle Assembly Building, wiped out sections of beach along the east coast and dumped more rain on already saturated land.



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Power poles blown over by Hurricane Charley lie across Lake Margaret Drive in southeast Orlando on Aug. 14, 2004, a day after the storm.

2004 review 6 WEEKS 4 HURRICANES

An unlucky turn the morning of Friday, Aug. 13, 2004, put Central Florida in the cross hairs of Hurricane Charley. The compact but powerful storm roared across the Interstate 4 corridor packing winds of more than 90 mph when it passed through about 9 p.m. The unexpected change in path resulted in Charley making landfall near Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte in southwest Florida as a Category 4 hurricane with 150-mph winds.

The devastating blow 15 years ago marked the first of four hurricanes in a six-week span to ravage Florida. The onslaught continued for Central Florida when Hurricane Frances barreled into southeast Florida on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 5, and subjected Orlando to a day of wind and soaking rain resulting in widespread flooding.

Less than three weeks later, still reeling and in disbelief, residents again weathered lines at home-supply businesses, grocery stores and gas stations in preparation for Jeanne, which essentially followed the same path as Frances and made landfall near Stuart just before midnight Sept. 25.

Between Frances and Jeanne, Hurricane Ivan marched through the Gulf and pounded the Panhandle region, making landfall in Alabama near the Florida border Sept. 16. It was the first time four hurricanes hit one state in the same season since Texas in 1886. The paths of Charley, Frances and Jeanne directly passed through Polk County, intersecting near Bartow.

By the end of September the power outages, long lines, plywood-covered windows, blue-tarped roofs, mountains of debris and flooded streets and homes were seared into memory. Anxious and weary Floridians counted the days until the end of hurricane season.



RICARDO RAMIREZ BUXEDA/ORLANDO SENTINEL



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A banner thanking the many workers who helped in the aftermath of Charley is draped over the State Road 472 overpass at I-4 between Deltona and DeLand on Aug. 24, 2004.



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A man tries to launch a kite on the breezes ahead of Hurricane Frances on Sept. 3, 2004. The home pictured sustained damage when Charley hit the Metro Orlando area three weeks earlier.



RICHARD GRAULICH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds of grapefruit float under flooded trees at groves near Fort Pierce following Hurricane Frances. The storms took a heavy toll on citrus crops.



JOE BURBANK/ORLANDO SENTINEL

A woman waits in frustration at Costco as hurricane-weary shoppers stock up ahead of Jeanne in 2004.



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Top: Squalls from Hurricane Jeanne throw water and aquatic grass from Lake Tohopekaliga in Kissimmee on Sept. 26, 2004. Left: A front-end loader sits atop debris that was ripped from the Kennedy Space Center's Vehicle Assembly Building by Hurricane Frances. Jeanne caused further damage to the structure.